

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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FM AMCONSUL SURABAYA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1191

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SURABAYA 0089

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, ID

SUBJECT: MORE ON YOGYAKARTA STUDENT DISTURBANCES

REF: SURABAYA 0080

1. DURING 24-HOUR VISIT TO YOGYAKARTA MARCH 1, CONOFF HAD OPPORTUNITY

TO DISCUSS RECENT STUDENT DISTURBANCES WITH GADJAH MADA STUDENTS, INDONESIAN POLITICAL SCIENTIST, AMERICAN FOUNDATION MEMBERS ATTACHED TO

UNIVERSITY, AND STAFF OFFICER AT KOWILHAN II (JAVA/MADURA TERRITORIAL COMMAND) HEADQUARTERS. CONSENSUS OF ABOVE IS THAT THERE ARE NOT MORE THAN 100 GENUINE STUDENT ACTIVISTS INVOLVED IN RECENT INCIDENTS AND OF THESE, THE VAST MAJORITY ARE HMI (ISLAMIC STUDENT ASSOCIATION) MEMBERS FROM NEARBY UII (PRIVATE ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF INDONESIA) AND IAIN (STATE-RUN ISLAMIC COLLEGE) AND NOT FROM GADJAH MADA ITSELF.

2. THREE MAJOR INCIDENTS HAVE OCCURRED IN PAST WEEK. TUESDAY FEB. 21, STUDENTS ATTACHED ANTI-GOVERNMENT POSTERS ON STUDENT-CENTER WINDOWS.

PROF. SOEKADJI, GADJAH MADA RECTOR, QUICKLY HELD DIALOGUE WITH STUDENTS AFTER ALERTING SECURITY OFFICIALS WHO ENTERED CAMPUS
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AND REMOVED POSTERS. SATURDAY FEB. 15, EVENTS OCCURRED AS DESCRIBED IN EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNT REPORTED IN REFTEL.

MONDAY FEB. 27 LARGE NUMBER (DESCRIBED AS THOUSANDS) OF PEOPLE AGAIN CONGREGATED IN VICINITY OF CAMPUS STUDENT CENTER IN RESPONSE TO STUDENT LEADERS CALLING FOR ATTENTION WITH BULL-HORNS. MOST OF THOSE WHO GATHERED-INCLUDING UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS, FACULTY MEMBERS, BECAK

DRIVERS AND TOWN'S PEOPLE--WERE SIMPLY PASSING ON MAIN CAMPUS THOROUGHFARE AND STOPPED TO SEE WHAT WAS GOING ON. COMBAT TROOPS REPORTEDLY FRESH FROM EAST TIMOR--AS DISTINGUISHED FROM LOCAL RIOT CONTROL FORCES AND POLICE USED ON SATURDAY--ARRIVED SHORTLY AFTER MIDMORNING WITH LIGHT TANKS AND PERSONNEL CARRIERS AND BEGAN ENCIRCLING THE GATHERING. AFTER TAUNTING AND SHOUTING BROKE-OUT, SECURITY FORCES (OFFICERS AS WELL AS TROOPS) BEGAN AGGRESSIVELY PURSUING STUDENTS, USING RIFLE BUTTS AND FIRING PISTOLS. (EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS OF THIS ARE GRAPHIC INDEED AND INDICATE SECURITY FORCES HAD INTENTION OF INSTILLING SENTIMENTS OF PROFOUND FEAR AMONG STUDENT COMMUNITY IN YOGYA.) AFTER THE MONDAY FRACAS, GADJAH MADA HAS BEEN CLOSED, WITH SMALL NUMBERS OF TROOPS EVIDENT ON PERIPHERY OF CAMPUS.

3. ACCORDING TO FACULTY INFORMANTS, SOEKADJI REPORTED TO SELECT GROUP OF FACULTY THAT HE WAS TOLD BY THE MILITARY 21 STUDENTS HAVE BEEN HOSPITALIZED, AND 157 INCARCERATED AS A RESULT OF EVENTS ON MONDAY. ALL BUT FOUR OF THE DETAINED WERE SUBSEQUENTLY RELEASED FROM JAIL ON MARCH 1. DURING A PERSONAL DRIVE THROUGH CAMPUS AT MIDDAY, CONOFF FOUND UNIVERSITY COMPLETELY DESERTED. IN LATE EVENING, GADJAH MADA POLITICAL SCIENTIST INFORMED CONOFF THAT CAMPUS WILL BE OPEN MARCH 2 FOR STUDENTS TO CONSULT WITH PROFESSORS AND USE LABORATORIES AND LIBRARIES, AND NEXT MONDAY LECTURES WILL RESUME. RUMOR REPEATED BY ALL CONTACTS IN YOGYA IS THAT SOEKADJI IS UNDER GREAT CONFIDENTIAL

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PRESSURE FROM MINISTER OF EDUCATION TO KEEP GADJAH MADA OPEN, PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF ITS INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION AND THE ADVERSE IMPACT OF A PROLONGED SHUT-DOWN.

4. ALL CONTACTS EXPECT TROUBLE TO CONTINUE IF UNIVERSITY RESUMES NORMAL OPERATIONS. REPORTS ARE THAT MANY STUDENTS ARE STILL IN EMOTIONAL STATE OVER MONDAY'S CLASH AND ARE HOLDING MEETINGS IN DORMITORIES SCATTERED AROUND TOWN. THE OPINION OF THE KNOWLEDGEABLE INDONESIANS CONTACTED IS THAT NEXT TIME SECURITY FORCES WILL NOT CONTENT THEMSELVES WITH SYSTEMATIC BEATINGS BUT WILL FIRE DIRECTLY ON CONGREGATED STUDENTS. SHERRY

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